

Appl. No. 09/884,586

Preliminary Amendment dated December 2, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 16-31 remain in this application. Claims 1-16 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added herein.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims of this application are in condition for allowance, and that this case is now in condition for allowance of all claims herein. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner disagrees, or believes for any other reason that direct contact with Applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of the case to finality, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

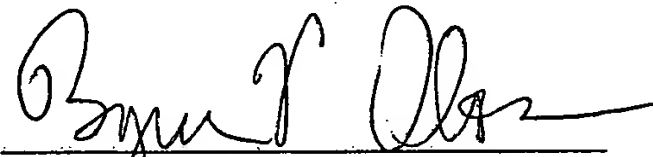
No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is authorized to apply any fee which may now be or hereafter be due for this application to Deposit Account No. 502092.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/02/04

By:


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